



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 18, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill #995 – An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations
Regarding Funding For Municipal Health Departments And Health Districts.**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports SB 995 and offers the following information regarding the Department's bill:

The bill aligns the requirements for a full-time municipal or district director of health to apply for per capita funding through the Department. If a vacancy exists for more than 90 days, the Commissioner can grant a waiver from the requirement of a full time municipal or district director of health to apply for and receive per capita funds.

During the course of the year a municipality can join or form a health district and receive 100% of per capita funding regardless of date of joining and/or forming the district. The bill will allow a per capita payment for a municipality joining or forming a health district on a pro-rated basis, effective the date of joining and/or forming the health district.

Currently local health departments and districts are able to carryover unexpended per capita funding from year to year. Over the last three years approximately \$1 million, 20% of the allocation, has been carried over by various local health departments. The bill will eliminate carryover funding of unspent funds at fiscal year end and return unused funds to the state's General Fund. Per-capita funding is intended to support delivery of needed public health services. Allowing per-capita funding to remain unexpended does not ensure delivery of essential public health services that are needed in these communities.

There will be a two year implementation process to allow health departments and districts adequate time to develop a plan for the utilization of the funding to provide these essential public health services to their communities.

The Department would like to thank the committee for raising the Department's bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100, Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE, P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
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